

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Drawing Objection

Figures 37 through 39 are objected to because they are not designated by a legend such as --PRIOR ART--. In response, a Submission of Corrected Sheets of the Drawings is being filed concurrently herewith in which the legend --PRIOR ART-- has been added to Figures 37 through 39. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that the objection to the drawings has been overcome.

Abstract

The Abstract of the Disclosure is objected to because of its length. In response, a new Abstract has been provided for the Examiner's consideration and approval.

Claims Status

Claims 10 through 13, 16, 17, 20, 23 through 33 and 52 through 64 are now pending in the application. Claims 1 through 9, 14, 18, 19, 21, 22, and 34 through 51 have been canceled. Claims 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 20, 23, and 24 have been amended to even more succinctly define the invention and/or to improve their form. Claims 52 through 64 have been added to accord Applicants an additional scope of protection commensurate with the disclosure. (For the Examiner's convenience, it is noted that Claims 52 through 58 have been formulated on the basis of Claims 11 through 13 and 15 through 17, respectively, and Claims 57 through 64 have been formulated on the basis of Claims 25 through 31, respectively.) It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

Claims 10, 20, 23, 24, 32, and 33 are the only independent claims pending in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is acknowledged with appreciation that Claims 24 through 33 are allowable over the prior art of record. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the allowed claims presented herein do not affect their allowability.

It is also acknowledged with appreciation that Claims 14 and 15 are merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Art Rejections

Claims 1 through 9, 18, 19, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,292,267 (Mori, et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,141,111 (Kato).

Claims 10 through 13, 17, 20, 23, and 34 through 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Mori, et al.

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mori, et al. in review of U.S. Patent No. 5,265,855 (Kimura, et al.).

The rationale underlying the foregoing art rejections is succinctly set forth in the Official Action. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Response to Rejections

Without conceding the propriety of the rejections and solely to advance prosecution, Claims 1 through 9, 18, 19, 21, 22, and 34 through 47 *inter alia* have been

canceled. Accordingly, the rejection of these claims is moot, and further comment thereon is not necessary.

Independent Claim 10 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of dependent Claim 14, which has been canceled. Claims 16 and 17 *inter alia* depend from Claim 10. Accordingly, the rejection of Claims 10, 16, and 17 also is moot, and further comment on these claims is not necessary.

Dependent Claims

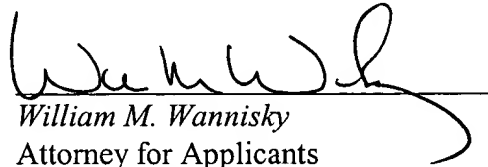
Claims 11 through 13, 16, 17, 25 through 31, 53 through 58, and 60 through 64 depend either directly or indirectly from one of Claims 10, 20, and 24 and are allowable by virtue of their dependency and in their own right for further defining Applicants' invention. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Closing Comments

It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims on file are allowable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,



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